RECEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER

APR 1 2 2005

AXIAMD.005CP1

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Andrew H. Cragg

Appl. No.

09/848,556

Filed

May 3, 2001

For

METHODS OF PERFORMING

PROCEDURES IN THE SPINE

Examiner

Pedro Philogene

Group Art Unit

3732

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED NOVEMBER 12, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are responsive to the rejections set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed November 12, 2004.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.